

**Mark C. Curran Jr. Sheriff**

**Raymond J. Rose Undersheriff**

# MEDIA RELEASE

Lake County Sheriff's Office • 25 South Martin Luther King, Jr., Avenue • Waukegan, Illinois 60085

## For Immediate Release

**Date:** December 16, 2014  
**Contact:** Sgt. Curtis A. Gregory  
**Office:** (847) 309-4704  
**Mobile:** (847) 309-4704  
**Fax:** (847) 984-5838  
**E-Mail:** cgregory@lakecountyil.gov

## SCAM ALERT!!

Lake County Sheriff Mark Curran would like to remind Lake County residents of phone “scams” taking place this holiday season.

The most current scam is the IRS scam. Scammers identify themselves as IRS Agents and tell victims they owe the IRS back taxes. Victims are directed to purchase cash cards or “money packs” and call the IRS Agent back with the cash card number to satisfy the amount owed.

Another common scam is the Grandparent/Relative scam. Scammers contact victims claiming to be an “attorney” from Canada or another country and representing one of the victims’ relatives. The attorney tells victims that money is required to release jailed relative. Victims are directed to purchase cash cards and... victims’ money will be gone in seconds. *Always hang up and call the named relative before paying anyone on the telephone.*

The increased scams are being perpetrated by sophisticated organized criminal organizations and are nearly impossible to track. Once a victim loses their money, the chances of recovering funds are slim. A number of these scams originate in India, Africa and assorted Asian countries as well as the U.S.

Above are two examples of the numerous “scams” hitting Lake County over the last 12 months. [Click here to view a list of the most current phone scams.](#)

If you receive a call requesting payment by cash card, bank account or credit card information you are encouraged to hang up and notify your local police department.

Remember, the IRS or any legitimate law enforcement agency will not ask for payment over the phone.

In addition to “phone scams” there have been a number of scams through the U.S. Postal Service. Be cautious when responding to any solicitation for money that you are not personally familiar with. [Click here for a list of scheme alerts from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.](#)

Common sense is your best defense against these criminals.